

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00217 081414Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 EA-07 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 BIB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 NEA-10 /081 W
-----081419Z 072248 /46

P 081025Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6516
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF
JCS
CNO
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCPAC
COMIDEASTFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 0217

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN XO US UK MP PFOR MARR
SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA VISIT

REF: STATE 049595

1. ADVISED UK HIGH COMMISSIONER BRIND THAT I INTENDED INFORM GOM OF PLANNED MEDIA VISIT TO DIEGO GARCIA. HE PREDICTED THAT PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM OR WHOMEVER ELSE I INFORMED WOULD ASK IF MAURITIAN JOURNALISTS COULD BE INCLUDED. HE WAS RIGHT.

2. ON MARCH 8 I INFORMED ACTING PRIME MINISTER SIR SATCAM BOOLELL (RAMGOOLAM AND HIS NUMBER TWO, FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO, ARE BOTH ATTENDING CAIRO ARAB-AFRICAN CONFERENCE), DRAWING ON INFO CONTAINED PARA ONE REFTEL. BOOLELL IMMEDIATELY ASKED IF WE COULD INCLUDE ONE OR TWO MAURITIAN JOURNALISTS,
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IF OTHERS DROPPED OUT AND LEFT VACANT SEATS ON PLANE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE OPPOSITION MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) HAS BEEN ATTACKING GOVERNMENT ON SUBJECT DIEGO GARCIA AND ALL THE GOM HAS TO RESPOND WITH IS SECOND-HAND INFORMATION IT RECEIVES FROM UK AND US. IN RESPONDED THAT FLIGHT ORIGINATES AND TERMINATES IN HONG KONG, AND THERE IS PROBLEM OF COST, SINCE MEDIA ARE PAYING FOR FLIGHT. BOOLELL REITERATED THAT

IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL HERE TO HAVE FIRST-HAND REPORTS FROM MAURITIAN JOURNALISTS TO COUNTER MMM PROPAGANDA. I OFFERED TO INQUIRE.

3. BOOLELL IS CORRECT THAT THE BEST WAY TO ANSWER MMM PROPAGANDA ATTACKS (SEE PORT LOUIS 193 AND 194 NOTAL) WOULD BE TO PERMIT MAURITIAN JOURNALISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDIA VISIT AND REPORT THEIR IMPRESSIONS DIRECTLY. IF THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE ARRANGED IT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD DEFUSING THE CONTROVERSY HERE OVER DIEGO OARCIA, WHICH IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOM. IN ADDITION, FIRST HAND REPORTS BY MAURITIAN JOURNALISTS REPRESENTING THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE CREDIBLE IN SOME QUARTERS THAN SIMILAR REPORTS FILED BY US AND UK JOURNALISTS WHO WOULD BE VIEWED (HOWEVER INCORRECTLY) AS BIASED IN FAVOR OF US-UK INTERESTS. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION OF MAURITIANS AS SOLE REPS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES COULD BE THAT MAURITIUS HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA, ITS FORMER TERRITORY. REQUEST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO GOM REQUEST.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES.

KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, JOURNALISTS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-0563
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770382/aaaacuhm.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 022cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 3176989
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIEGO GARCIA VISIT
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, MARR, XO, US, UK, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/022cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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